(iv) Shri Shashanka Narayan, the Assistant Controller of Sales, Prasar Bharati, New Delhi.

(c) CBI has informed that it is alleged that percuniary benefit to the tune of approximately Rs. 1.51 crores was caused to the company.

Amount spent on improving the standard of news on Doordarshan

† 1594. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the name of improving the standard of news at non-prime time, Doordarshan has spent crores of rupees in barely one year;

(b) if so, the details of the total amount spent;

(c) whether the standard of the news has improved;

(d) whether it is a fact that the viewership is declining continuously;

(e) who is responsible for duping Government of crores of rupees deceptively;

(f) the action taken by Govemment in this regard; and

(g) the manner in which Government will recover the bungled amount?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

Filling up Post of Directors in Broadcasting Stations of J and K

1595. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post of directors in respect of two major and sensitive broadcasting stations in J and K i.e. Radio Kashmir, Srinagar and Doordarshan Kendra are duly sanctioned;

(b) whether it is also a fact that both these important stations are being headed by two deputy director rank officers; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps being taken by Prasar Bharat! to post officers of suitable rank and competence to these two important installations and by when?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is an overall shortage of officers in the Junior Administrative Grade of Indian Broadcasting (Programme) Service and the posts will be filled as soon and when suitable officers become available. No time-frame can be laid down for filling up of these posts.

DD Officials favour to Private Telecast Companies

1596. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI has been enquiring in a number of cases involving Doordarshan officials who have been favouring a number of private telecast companies and other deals; and

(b) if so, the details of cases, so far, investigated by the CBI and the action taken or contemplated by the Govemment in each case?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tenders for slots on Metro Channel

1597. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati invited fresh tenders for hour long slots on the Metro Channel without stipulating floor price;

(b) if so, the details of slots that are going to be auctioned;

(c) whether it is a fact that only Hindi Programmes would be allowed in these slots; and

(d) if so, the reasons for allowing only Hindi Programmes and not allowing the English Programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati have